



www.kingcounty.gov/parks

MAURY ISLAND NATURAL AREA SOIL CLEANUP

Background

As a result of the Tacoma Smelter Plume fallout and a skeet range that had been located on a portion of the property, several different studies related to metals impacts have been conducted. Data from these various studies indicate elevated levels of arsenic and lead exist in near-surface soils throughout the site, except for recently mined areas.

What is King County's responsibility for addressing soil remediation (cleanup)?

In February 2011, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) identified King County as a "potentially liable person" (PLP). Under the States' Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), a PLP is liable for site cleanup. King County and Ecology negotiated an Agreed Order (Order) to guide further site assessment and move toward a final cleanup plan. That Order was signed by both parties and went into effect on January 31, 2013.

What is included in an Agreed Order (Order) and what does it require?

The Agreed Order is a legally binding administrative order that outlines actions King County must undertake to avoid potential enforcement action by Ecology. It does not identify specific cleanup actions at this time, but rather includes a scope of work, required deliverables and schedule for implementation of the required Order elements which are:

- a remedial investigation report (defines the extent of contamination),
- a feasibility study (develops and evaluates clean up options) and
- a cleanup action plan (explains which cleanup alternatives will be used).

How does the 2013 Maury Island Natural Area Site Management Plan relate to the soil cleanup processes?

The feasibility study/cleanup plan will be based on the management plan's recommendations for proposed site uses, alterations and development since implementation of those recommendations would affect the amount and level of soil disturbance and potential risk of exposure. There is a possibility that cleanup requirements may result in a need to revisit some of the management plan's recommendations. Any changes to the plan would involve the Planning Advisory Group that helped draft the 2013 plan. In addition, public meetings seeking community input would be held prior to any final plan approval.

What are some of the potential cleanup actions discussed to date?

Specific strategies and technologies have not been identified but common methods used for other sites include one or more of the following: capping, removing soil off site, storing soils on site, as well as institutional controls such as fencing, signage, etc.

What is the current status of work implementing the Agreed Order for cleanup?

All additional sampling and testing directed by Ecology to date has been completed. In March 2013, Ecology provided comments on King County's draft remedial investigation (RI) report and is currently reviewing a supplemental RI submitted by King County in October 2013. Discussions between Ecology and the County are continuing primarily focused on cleanup levels and methods. After the RI is finalized, the feasibility study and then the cleanup action plan will be developed.

When will the cleanup occur?

The timing of cleanup cannot be specifically identified at this time as it is a complex, multiple step process. But, it is unlikely that actual cleanup actions will begin before 2015 at the earliest.

How will cleanup costs be paid?

Several different grant programs are available to help cover the costs of the cleanup; the County has identified capital funds to help provide match for such grants. King County was not awarded funds through its 2012 application for the EPA Brownfields Multipurpose Pilot Grant Program. However, in 2013 we submitted an Oversight Remedial Action grant application to Ecology and are awaiting notification regarding funding availability. Ecology did not grant any funds for the Maury Island Natural Area cleanup in its 2013-15 budget but funds from that grant program may become available later in 2014 to help pay for the costs of this cleanup effort.

What if I have additional questions about the soil cleanup at Maury Island Natural Area or want to be added to a list for future updates and meeting notifications?

For specific questions about the soil remediation process on Maury Island Site, please contact Ron Timm, DOE Site Manager, at rtim461@ecy.wa.gov or by phone at: 425-649-7185.

To receive updates about site cleanup, including notification public meetings and public review/comment periods, please contact Meg Bommarito, Public Involvement Coordinator, at mbom461@ecy.wa.gov or by phone at: 425-649-7256

Information about cleanup efforts at Maury Island Natural Area is available at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=1532>